



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Todd P. Haymore
Commissioner

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

PO Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23218
Phone: 804/786-3501 • Fax: 804/371-2945 • Hearing Impaired: 800/828-1120
www.vdacs.virginia.gov

January 30, 2008

Dear Retail Food Industry Member:

We are writing to notify you of certain regulatory changes that have taken place. In the past, within retail food establishments that it regulates, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services enforced "Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Sanitary and Operating Requirements in Retail Food Stores".

Recently, a new regulation took effect. This regulation is a modified version of the United States Food and Drug Administration's Retail Food Code. This new regulation is entitled "Retail Food Establishment Regulations".

Although the new regulations are more comprehensive than our current regulations, they provide a greater degree of flexibility for the retail food industry in many areas. The new regulations provide a much needed, scientifically sound update to the current regulations, which were first implemented in 1986.

You may access and download the new regulations on our website at the following web address: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/fdsafety/index.shtml>.

As we move towards the implementation of these new regulations, our Department stands ready to assist you in any way possible relative to this transition. By partnering together, we can insure both a safe and secure food supply for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

If you have questions, concerns or need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Food Safety and Security Program at: 804/786-3520.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ryan W. Davis".

Ryan W. Davis
Program Manager
Office of Dairy and Foods